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House of Representatives

AUTHORIZING MEDICAL FACILITY LEASES FOR VETERANS!

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. FILNER. I rise in support of S. 1717, a bill to authorize 15 major medical facility leases for the Department of Veterans Affairs' fiscal year 2010 budget. The bill would also authorize \$196 million to allow the VA to carry out these leases in a timely manner.

Mr. Speaker, the VA operates the largest direct health care delivery system in America. Providing timely access to high-quality health care to veterans is the work of the VA. It provides these services through their sizable inventory of buildings and properties that include 153 medical centers, 755 outpatient clinics, and 230 vet centers. This bill provides the VA the ability to move forward without delay on the execution of important leases. Veterans who have been anticipating new clinics opening up in their communities will not be disappointed if we act on time.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to thank the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee for taking the lead and moving this bill so quickly. I urge support of the legislation.